

**REMARKS**

The Office Actions mailed December 4, 2001, and May 13, 2002 have been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 17 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-19 are pending for consideration.

**Request to Restart Response Period and Examiner Interview**

Applicant submits that the present Amendment and Reply is timely without an extension of time by virtue of the remailing of the Office Action on May 13, 2002 (the "May 13 Office Action"). Applicant received an initial Office Action mailed on December 4, 2001 (the "December 4 Office Action"). In view of not having received a pertinent reference cited in the December 4 Office Action, applicant filed a Request to Restart Response Period on February 6, 2002. On May 20, 2002, applicant's representative spoke with Examiner Abdulselam via telephone regarding the Request to Restart Response Period. Examiner Abdulselam stated that the Office Action had been remailed and that the period for response was reset to begin with the remailing of the Office Action. Applicant subsequently received the May 13 Office Action which had been remailed on May 13, 2002.

Accordingly, applicant understands that the current date for reply without an extension of time is August 13, 2002, three months after the mailing date of the May 13 Office Action. This is in accordance with MPEP 710.06 which states that when an Office Action is remailed, the remailing date establishes the period for reply. Thus applicant believes that no fees are due for an extension of time in the present case. If any fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

## Amendments

Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to more distinctly claim the invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the language “wherein said first picture data has a first aspect ratio, and said enlarged picture has a second aspect ratio which is different from said first aspect ratio, and wherein said area consisting of the reduced number of lines is sandwiched between said first black area and said second black area.” Claims 8 and 15 have been amended with similar language. Claims 1, 4, 5 and 11 have also been amended to clarify that it is the aspect ratio of the enlarged picture or enlarged frame that is of significance. Applicants submit that this clarification changes, but does not narrow, the scope of those claims so amended. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 17 and 19 have also been amended to improve the grammar of those claims. Applicant submits that the amendments to improve the grammar of the claims do not change the scope of those claims so amended.

## Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,289,293 to Kato et al. (hereafter “Kato”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

As background, the invention as recited in independent claims 1, 8 and 15 is directed to a picture convert apparatus or method. In all of the claims, picture data is converted to second picture data or a frame, and the second picture data or frame is enlarged and displayed. The aspect ratio of the picture data before conversion is different from the aspect ratio of the enlarged picture or frame that is displayed. All of the claims also require that the second picture data or frame has a reduced number of lines sandwiched between two black areas. The invention thus allows a picture with one aspect ratio to be displayed on a display having another aspect ratio. Kato fails to disclose either (1)

converting and enlarging picture data with one aspect ratio to an enlarged picture or frame with another aspect ratio, or (2) the converted picture data having an area with a reduced number of lines sandwiched between two black areas.

First, Kato discloses pixel density conversion, not converting and enlarging picture data with one aspect ratio to an enlarged picture or frame with another aspect ratio. Kato discloses a pixel density conversion unit for half-tone images suitable to enlarge or reduce the half-tone images (col. 6, lines 3-9). Kato specifically discloses, for example, a density conversion ratio of 2/3 for pixel density conversion (col. 9, lines 25-38, FIG. 10A). While Kato does disclose pixel density conversion, Kato does not disclose converting and enlarging picture data with one aspect ratio to picture data with another aspect ratio.

Second, Kato does not disclose converted picture data having an area with a reduced number of lines sandwiched between two black areas as claimed. Kato does disclose both white pixels and black pixels. Kato also discloses that in the density conversion process for half-toned processed images the ratio of the number of white pixels to that of the number of black pixels may be changed (col. 18, lines 27-34). While Kato does disclose black pixels, Kato does not disclose black areas per se as in the present claims, and therefore Kato does not disclose sandwiching an area with a reduced number of lines between black pixel areas. Thus, Kato does not disclose converted picture data with an area having a reduced number of lines sandwiched between two black areas.

For the reasons given above, applicant submits that all of the claims are patentable over Kato, and, accordingly, respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date May 30, 2002

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

**Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made**

**In the Claims:**

1. (Amended) A picture convert apparatus comprising:  
a first element which inputs a first picture data and produces a second picture data consisting of a first black area, a second black area and an area consisting of [the] a reduced number of lines of said first picture;  
a second element which enlarges said second picture data to provide an enlarged picture; and  
a third element which [display] displays said enlarged picture, and  
wherein said first picture data has a first aspect ratio, and said enlarged picture has a second aspect ratio which is different from said first aspect ratio, and wherein said area consisting of the reduced number of lines is sandwiched between said first black area and said second black area.
3. (Amended) The picture convert apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first element picks every other [lines] line of the lines of said first picture.
4. (Amended) The picture convert apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second element enlarges said second picture data so that the size of said [second] enlarged picture becomes the same size as the size of said first picture data.
5. (Amended) The picture convert apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first picture data has [a] an aspect ratio 16:9 and said [second picture data] enlarged picture has [a] an aspect ratio 4:3.
8. (Amended) A picture convert apparatus comprising:  
a first element which produces a first black area;

a second element which reduces the line number of a picture data to a predetermined line number;

a third element which produces a second black area;

a fourth element which forms said first black area, said reduced numbers of lines and said second black area to a frame;

a fifth element which [enlarge] enlarges said frame; and

a sixth element which [display] displays said enlarged frame, and wherein said picture data has a first aspect ratio, and said enlarged frame has a second aspect ratio which is different from said first aspect ratio, and wherein said reduced number of lines is sandwiched between said first black area and said second black area.

10. (Amended) The picture convert apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said second element picks every other [lines] line of the lines of said picture data.

11. (Amended) The picture convert apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said second element enlarges said frame so that the size of said enlarged frame becomes the same size as the size of said picture data.

15. (Amended) A method for converting a first picture data to a second picture data, comprising:

producing a first black area;

reducing the line number of said first picture data to a predetermined line number;

producing a second black area;

forming said first black area, said reduced numbers of lines and said second black area to a frame;

enlarging said frame; and

displaying said enlarged frame on a display, and

wherein said first picture data has a first aspect ratio, and said enlarged frame has a second aspect ratio which is different from said first aspect ratio, and wherein said reduced number of lines is sandwiched between said first black area and said second black area.

17. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein every other [lines] line of said first picture is picked from the lines of said first picture during said reducing step.

19. (Amended) The picture convert apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said first picture data has [a] an aspect ratio 16:9 and said [second picture data] enlarged frame has [a] an aspect ratio 4:3.